

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: E.

Date: January 12, 2005

Topic: Final Review of the Regulations Governing Adult High School Programs (8 VAC 20-30-10 et seq.)

Presenter: Dr. Yvonne V. Thayer, Director, Adult Education and Literacy

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Origin:

 Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

X Board review required by

 State or federal law or regulation

X Board of Education regulation

 Other:

X Action requested at this meeting Action requested at future meeting: (date)

Previous Review/Action:

 No previous board review/action

X Previous review/action

date January 7, 2004

action First Review of Proposed Revisions

Background Information:

The adult high school program enables an adult to complete the required courses to earn an adult high school diploma, excluding health and physical education, by completing graduation requirements in effect when the individual entered the ninth grade. An adult student who completes all requirements of a board-approved diploma in effect at the time he will graduate shall be awarded the respective diploma. Adult high school programs employ licensed teachers and follow standard high school course requirements. The External Diploma Program (EDP) is a national program that allows adults who acquired their academic skills through life and work experience to demonstrate competence in an applied performance assessment process.

The *Regulations Governing Adult High School Programs* were last revised in 1985 and are not aligned with the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (SOA)*. Although it requires adults to meet high standards, the EDP does not comport with diploma requirements as described in the accreditation standards.

Summary of Major Elements

The proposed *Regulations Governing Adult High School Programs* have the following additions or changes, aside from editorial corrections:

1. Educational alternatives must be considered before enrolling a student in grades 9-12 in adult education classes.
2. “Other objective evidence” may be used in addition to testing to constitute sufficient evidence for one unit of credit in courses leading to high school credit.
3. The principal or superintendent may award credit in accordance with school board policies.
4. An adult student who completes all requirements for a board-approved diploma in effect at the time he will graduate shall be awarded the respective diploma.
5. The requirement for specific assessments may be waived if assessments are no longer administered to high school students.
6. An adult high school diploma is established and awarded in either of two circumstances: (a) the adult has completed the requirements for a diploma that were in effect at the time he first entered the ninth grade or (b) the adult has completed the requirements of the External Diploma Program.
7. Adult high school programs shall have access to computer technology as well as library media and science laboratory facilities.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education adopt the proposed Regulations Governing Adult High School Programs.

Impact on Resources:

The impact on resources is not expected to be significant.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

The Department of Education will notify local school divisions of the changes in the regulations when final approval is granted through the Administrative Process Act.

Regulations Governing Adult High School Programs
8 VAC 20-30-10

8 VAC 20-30-10. Responsibility.

Local ~~authorities~~ school officials are responsible for evaluating and awarding credit for educational achievement, other than that earned in the ~~regular~~ high school program.

8 VAC 20-30-20. Minimum requirements for ~~secondary~~ adult high school programs

Secondary Adult high school programs ~~for adults which~~ are not part of the ~~regular day grade 9 through 12 high~~ school program and shall meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Age. ~~A~~ An adult student shall be at least 18 years of age. Under circumstances which local school ~~authorities~~ officials consider justifiable, ~~the age limit may be lowered.~~ students of school age may enroll in courses offered by the adult high school. Only in exceptional circumstances should local ~~authorities~~ school officials permit ~~an~~ a school-aged individual ~~regularly-enrolled in grades 9 through 12 day student~~ to earn credits toward high school graduation in adult classes. ~~(In such cases, All alternative educational alternatives programs must have been considered) prior to placing an enrolled student in an adult class. Such students would be able to earn a diploma, as provided in 8 VAC 20-131-50 et seq., but would not be eligible to earn an adult high school diploma.~~
2. Credit.
 - a. ~~Satisfactory completion of 108 hours of classroom instruction in a subject shall constitute sufficient evidence for one unit of credit toward a high school diploma. Where accelerated or other innovative instructional methods are used, satisfactory completion of comparable competencies as the regular high school program, as measured by objective testing in a subject, shall constitute sufficient evidence for one unit of credit.~~
 - b. ~~Eighteen units of credit are required for graduation as specified in the Standards for Accrediting Schools in Virginia with the exclusion of Health and Physical Education.~~
 - c. ~~An Advanced Studies Diploma (20 credits) shall be awarded to students who complete the credits as specified in the Standards for Accrediting Schools in Virginia with the exclusion of health and physical education.~~
 - d. ~~In addition to the units of credit specified in the Standards for Accrediting Schools in Virginia, each student must demonstrate mastery of minimum competencies as prescribed by the Board of Education.~~

- e. ~~b.~~ When, in the ~~judgement~~ judgment of the principal or the superintendent, an adult not regularly enrolled in the ~~day~~ grade 9 through 12 high school program is able to demonstrate by examination or other objective evidence, satisfactory completion of the work, he may receive credit in accordance with policies adopted by the local school board. It is the responsibility of the school issuing the credit to document the types of examinations employed, ~~and~~ or other objective evidence used, the testing or assessment procedures, and the extent of progress in each case.
- f. ~~No student may be issued a diploma by earning credits in adult classes prior to the time that he would have graduated from a secondary school had he remained in school and made normal progress.~~
- g. ~~c.~~ Credits ~~actually~~ earned in adult ~~secondary~~ high school programs shall be transferable as ~~identified~~ prescribed in the ~~Standards for Accrediting Schools in Virginia~~ Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia within the sponsoring school division and shall be transferable to public secondary schools outside of the sponsoring school division.

3. Diplomas.

- a. A diploma, as provided in 8 VAC 20-131-50 et seq., shall be awarded to an adult student who completes all requirements of the diploma regulated by the Board of Education, with the exception of health and physical education requirements, in effect at the time he will graduate.
- b. An adult high school diploma shall be awarded to an adult student who completes the course credit requirements in effect for any Board of Education diploma, with the exception of health and physical education course requirements, at the time he first entered the ninth grade. The requirement for specific assessments may be waived if the assessments are no longer administered to students in Virginia public schools.
- c. An adult high school diploma shall be awarded to an adult student who demonstrates through applied performance assessment full mastery of the External Diploma Program competencies, as promulgated by the American Council on Education and validated and endorsed by the United States Department of Education.
- d. A General Achievement Diploma, as provided in 8VAC20-680-10 et seq., shall be awarded to an adult student who completes all requirements of the diploma

8 VAC 20-30-30. Minimum qualifications of teachers.

~~[The minimum qualifications of t]~~ Teachers teaching in the adult ~~and evening~~ high school program shall be licensed and endorsed in the subject areas they teach. ~~the same in all respects as those required for the regular day school.~~

8 VAC 20-30-40. ~~Library f~~Facilities.

~~The library facilities available for the regular day school shall be available for the adult evening school.~~

The adult high school program shall have library media services, science laboratories, and computer technology accessible to instructional staff and adult learners.

~~8 VAC 20-30-50. Science laboratory facilities.~~

~~If science is offered, the appropriate laboratory facilities also shall be available.~~

8 VAC 20-30-~~60~~50. Administration and ~~S~~Supervision.

The adult ~~and evening~~ high school program shall be under the supervision of ~~the a secondary~~ high school principal, assistant principal, or a qualified staff member approved by the division superintendent.

8 VAC 20-30-~~70~~60. Guidance services.

The adult ~~and evening~~ high school program ~~should~~ shall have appropriate guidance services available.